INSECT DISEASE REPORT

USDA FOREST SERVICE/NORTHERN REGION

Report No. 73-26

5200
November 1973

STATUS OF THE VARIABLE OAK LEAF CATERPILLAR IN NORTH DAKOTA - 1973

by

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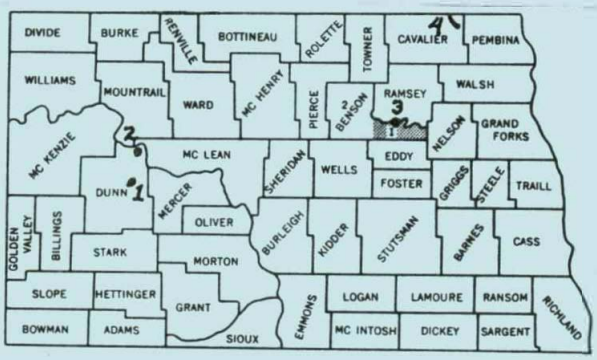
The variable oak leaf caterpillar, *Heterocampa manteo* (Dbldy.), was reported extensively defoliating hardwoods near Devils Lake and in the Killdeer Mountains of North Dakota in 1970. Varying degrees of defoliation have occurred since in these and other locations. An aerial survey to determine current status was made in early October 1973.

Current infestations are fairly light but widely scattered. Two very small spots of defoliation were detected on paper birch, *Betula papyrifera* (Marsh), along the north side of the Killdeer Mountains and no defoliation was aerially visible in the Turtle Mountains. Moderate defoliation is present on about 1 square mile of the Fort Totten Indian Reservation. Much of this is scattered, with heavy defoliation being confined to American basswood, *Tilia americana*, in the mixed stand. A similar scattered appearing situation also occurs in Cavalier County along the Pembina River where a thin line of defoliated trees runs for about 9 miles. The defoliated trees represent a small portion of the dominant trees in the stand, bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*.



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
DIAGRAM OF COUNTIES

LEGEND

1 Killdeer Mountains
2 Turtle Mountains
3 Devils Lake
4 Pembina River